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BOROUGH OF CALNE.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Year Ending 31st December, 1943.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
BOROUGH OF CALNE.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

In the absence of your permanent Medical Officer, I have the honour to submit an Annual Report for 1943. In accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health this report is considerably curtailed as compared with pre-war issues, but the facts show that the health of the community has been maintained at a high level.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the invaluable assistance I have received on all occasions from Mr. Oliver.

I. General Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	1,276
Population (1943)	5,482
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943 according to Rate Book)	1,525
Rateable Value	£28,171
Sum represented by penny rate	£121. 10. 11

II. Vital Statistics for 1943.

	Total.	M.	F.	Rate.	cf E. & W.
Live Births					
Legitimate	90	50	40		
Illegitimate	4	2	2		
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)				17.1	(16.5)
Still Births	3	1	2		
Rate (per 1000 total births)				30.9	
Deaths	55	25	30		
Death Rate (per 1000 population)				10.0	(12.1)
Deaths from Puerperal Causes					
Puerperal Sepsis	0				
Other puerperal causes	0				
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year					
All Infants per 1000 live births				74.5	(49)
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legimitate live births				77.8	
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				0	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11
" " Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
" " Influenza	2
" " Respiratory Diseases (21,22,23)	3
" " Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels (18,19,20)	21

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1943.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	9	6	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	1	-
Erysipelas	-		
Cerebro Spinal Fever			-
Typhoid Fever	-		-
Poliomyelitis			-
Whooping Cough	3		-
Measles	67		-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5				1				
15	2	1	1					
25		1						
35								
45					1			
55								
65 and upwards				1				
Totals	2	2	2	2	1	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Government Evacuation Scheme

At the close of the year there were 115 evacuees in the district, as follows:- 17 mothers, 29 unaccompanied and 38 accompanied children and 31 others, i.e. cripples, old-age pensioners etc.

At the Welfare Centre there is a rest room for mothers with children's playroom adjoining, which is equipped with toys; bathing facilities, small laundry, Citizens' Advice Bureau, boot exchange and emergency beds for homeless persons and/or transferred war-workers, etc.; also store for equipment.

As far as I am aware this is the only centre in the country with such facilities.

At the Guides' Hall there is an evacuated school from Shepherds Bush for children below 7 years of age under the charge of an L.C.C. teacher.

Maternity and Child Welfare

(i) Midwifery and Maternity Services.
There is one midwife in the area, who is working under the County Council Scheme through the Calne Nursing Association, and a grant is received from the County Council in respect of this service.

(ii) Institutional Provisions for Mothers and Children.
None exists within the area.

(iii) Health Visitors and School Nurses.
Duties carried out by County Council Health Visitor.

(iv) The Child Welfare Clinic was introduced during this year. It is held at the Baptist Church Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 2.00 p.m.

(v) Child Life Protection.
During the year the N.S.P.C.C. took successful action in one bad case of parental neglect.

Registered Maternity and other Nursing Homes within the Borough

None exist.

Nursery Schools

A War-time Day Nursery was opened during this year and has been running with considerable success. The children are all medically inspected every quarter.

There is also a War-time Residential Nursery under the auspices of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society at a large country house in the district which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. The Nursery is visited weekly by a local medical practitioner and the children are also medically inspected every quarter by the Medical Officer of Health.

Ambulance Facilities

(i) Infectious Cases. A motor ambulance is stationed at the Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury Isolation Hospital at Chippenham, of which the Borough of Calne is a constituent authority.

(ii) For non-infectious and accident cases, a motor ambulance is provided by the local Nursing Association.

Nursing in the Home

General Nursing. This is provided by the Calne Nursing Association and is in every way satisfactory.

British Restaurant

This extremely well run restaurant caters for factory workers, evacuees and several of the schools, in addition to the general public, and meets a very definite need most successfully.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

This service is provided by the County Council, visits being made at frequent intervals by Dr. Blackley.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Conveniences

These were opened at the end of the year on two sites in the centre of the town and met an undoubted want.

Water Supply

Complaints are still made from time to time of water shortage, particularly on the Council's housing estate at North End and the Town Council have repeatedly called the attention of the Water Company to these complaints.

It is to be hoped that after the war the local water company will take active steps to provide an adequate water supply to all parts of the Borough; so far, what has been done in recent years has been proved by experience to be insufficient.

Speaking in my official capacity I should like to register the fact that, in my opinion, it would be to the benefit of the community if the local authority purchased the water undertaking and modernised it from the source to the consumer.

The water is obtained from the lower greensand springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the south-east of the borough.

Bacteriologically the water shews no evidence whatsoever of harmful pollution. Chlorination is carried out.

The percentage of houses connected to the piped supply is 98.36.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is sewered. Except for the houses beyond the reach of the sewers, owing to their isolated position, the percentage of houses connected is 97.7.

The sewage disposal works, situated in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham about 1½ miles to the north-west of the town, continues to function satisfactorily.

The effluent, which discharges into the River Marden just below Hazeland Mill, and about one mile below the sewage works, is up to the required standard.

No cases of river pollution have been reported during the year.

Public Cleansing

House refuse is collected weekly from every house, the Contractors emptying the receptacles from the kerbside where they are placed ready by the householder. The Contractor also provides the tip, which is in the adjoining Rural District, about 1½ miles from the town in a north-easterly direction. The refuse is dealt with by the Contractor on the 'Bradford' system.

The weight of salvage collected during 1943 amounted to 373½ tons valued at £743. 5. 6. The corresponding figure for the previous year was 230¾ tons valued at £737. 10. 7.

The weight of waste paper collected represented 19.2 cwt. per 1,000 of the population per month against a National figure of 15.1 cwt. for all Boroughs, whilst the average bone collection, on the same basis, was 104 lb. against a National figure for all Boroughs of 66 lb.

Meat and Other Foods

During the year the Government slaughter-house was closed, all killing being transferred to Chippenham as from 7th May.

The weight of meat condemned from 1st January to this date was 13 tons 4.15 cwt., including edible and inedible offal. During the previous year's working the amount was 23 tons 18 cwt. 2 qrs. 19½ lb.

498 tins of canned food were condemned during the year in addition to 5 lb. jam, 173 lb. bread, 9 lb. margarine and 21 duck eggs. In addition, 117 tins of canned meat were condemned ex Ministry of Food stocks.

No case of food poisoning has been reported.

The County Council are the responsible authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk Supply.

There is one producer of Accredited Milk in the district; one retailer is licensed to sell Tuberculin-Tested Milk; one to bottle and sell Accredited Milk; and one retailer is licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk produced in a neighbouring district.

Milk is supplied daily, during sessions, to the Secondary School, Senior, Junior and Infant Schools in the town.

The trade is carried on satisfactorily by all concerned.

Infestation Order, 1943

Only one serious complaint of Rat Infestation was received during the year which was dealt with satisfactorily. Premises are inspected from time to time and it is hoped that, in due course, satisfactory arrangements will be made with the adjoining Rural District to share the services, at any rate temporarily, of a trained rodent operative.

Housing

There is still a great need for further houses in spite of the Town Council's activities in the years between the two wars. They have erected 289 houses out of a total of 1525 dwelling-houses of all classes in the Borough besides subsidising 73 under the various Housing Acts and lending money in 15 other cases under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

It will be seen that the local authority have either built or are or have been financially interested in no less than 25% of all the dwelling-houses in the Borough. Nevertheless at the outbreak of the present war the Town Council were negotiating for a further site of some 12 acres and it is hoped that this will be fully developed as soon as the Government can grant facilities for building after hostilities cease.

Sanitary Inspection

It has been impossible to carry out routine inspections during the year, as in ordinary times, but as complaints have arisen they have all been dealt with satisfactorily.

With only one or two exceptions, which are well known to us, the houses in the town are kept in very fair condition both by the landlords and the tenants.

The cases to which I refer are kept constantly under review, and where there are small children I have the co-operation of the County Council Health Visitor as well.

Public Health Officers

a. Medical Officer of Health.
b. Sanitary Inspector, who is also Borough Surveyor.
c. One whole-time Veterinary Inspector at the Bacon Factory of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd.
d. County Council Health Visitor whose district extends into the adjoining Rural District.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

(sgd) R.D. GRAY.

Medical Officer of Health.